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Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-02 INR-10 IO-14
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05 SP-02
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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY
USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: JULY 31 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

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1. RICHARD BURT OF NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED T'AT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS ORDERED AN INTERAGENCY STUDY OF WHETHER U.S. SHOULD DEVELOP NEW GENERATION OF NUCLEAR-ARMED MISSILES TO DEPLOY IN WESTERN EUROPE IN 1980'S TO COUNTER NEW SOVIET MEDIUM-RANGE BOMBERS AND MISSILES. BURT SAID STUDY TO BE COMPLETED IN SIX MONTHS. HE REPORTED THAT WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT RAISED IDEA OF NEW MISSILE IN

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PRIVATE TALKS WITH CARTER RECENTLY, BUT PRESIDENT, IN PUBLIC, HAS COMMITTED U.S. ONLY TO STUDY REQUEST. BURT NOTED THAT REQUEST IS SAID TO HAVE "SPURRED AN INTENSE DEBATE IN FOREIGN POLICY CIRCLES." BURT SAID WHILE THERE APPEARS TO BE WESTERN CONSENSUS THAT COUNTER TO NEW SOVIET WEAPONS IS NEEDED, OFFICIALS ARE UNDECIDED OVER WHAT TYPE, AND WHETHER IT SHOULD BE IN AMERICAN HANDS OR COULD BE OPERATED BY ALLIED FORCES. DEFENSE SCIENCE BOARD, IN STUDY FOR DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN, HAD ADVOCATED DEPLOYMENT OF 2,000 MOBILE, LAND-LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILES IN EUROPE, BURT SAID. HE SAID SOME ANALYSTS OPPOSE WHOLE IDEA OF EUROPEAN-BASED MISSILE FORCE, "ON GROUND THAT IT WOULD BE

SHIFT AWAY FROM EXISTING STRATEGY OF USING INTERCONTINENTAL MISSILES TO PROTECT EUROPE. THEY ALSO FEAR THAT NEW MEDIUM-RANGE MISSILE FORCE COULD DAMAGE RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW AND COMPLICATE ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS. RATHER THAN DEPLOY-ING NEW MISSILE, THEY SUGGEST, WEST SHOULD ATTEMPT TO INDUCE SOVIET UNION TO LIMIT ITS OWN MEDIUM-RANGE SYSTEMS IN AN AGREEMENT THAT MIGHT FOLLOW PRESENT TALKS ON LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC ARMS. ADVOCATES OFEUROPEAN-BASED MISSILE FORCE SAY RUSSIANS WOULD HAVE LITTLE INCENTIVE TO LIMIT SS-20 OR BACKFIRE UNLESS WEST CONFRONTED THEM WITH MEDIUM-RANGE MISSILE OF ITS OWN."

2. NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIALLY DESCRIBED MULTIPLE AIM
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POINT (MAP) BASING SYSTEM AS NEW U.S. INVENTION THAT COULD HAVE BOOMERANG EFFECT. "RANDOMLY MOVABLE MISSILES MIGHT BE HARD TO FIND IN AN ATTACK, BUT FOR THAT VERY REASON THEY ARE ALSO HARD TO LOCATE IN VERIFYING TREATY LIMITS ON NUMBER OF MISSILES," TIMES ASSERTED. NOTING THAT PENTAGON HAS SUGGESTED BOTH ON-SITE AND AERIAL INSPECTION BY SOVIET UNION, TIMES SAID MAIN PROBLEM FOR U.S. IS NOT WHETHER THIS WOULD SATISFY SOVIET GOVERNMENT; "IT IS WHETHER AMERICANS WOULD EVER BE SATISFIED WITH KIND OF INSPECTIONS RUSSIANS WOULD ALLOW ONCE THEY ENTER THIS GIANT SHELL GAME...CIA DOUBTS THAT SATELLITE CAMERAS WOULD SERVE FOR THIS KIND OF INSPECTION AND NO ONE BELIEVES RUSSIANS WOULS ALLOW CAMERA-LADEN HELICOPTERS TO CRUISE IN THEIR AIR SPACE." TIMES SAID "ARMS CONTROL NEEDS TO BE DEFENDED ALSO AGAINST MERGER OF PLANNING FOR ANY 'SHELL GAME' SYSTEM WITH DEVELOPMENT OF GIANT MOBILE MX MISSILE. IF MOBILE SYSTEM BECAME NECESSARY, EXISTING MINUTEMAN MISSILE COULD BE MADE MOBILE AT HALF 40 BILLION DOLLAR COST OF MX, AND YEARS SOONER. UNLIKE MX, MINUTEMAN WOULD NOT POSE FIRST-STRIKE THREAT TO RUSSIA'S LAND ROCKETS; IT WOULD NOT INCREASE TEMPTATION TO SHOOT FIRST IN CRISIS TO AVOID BEING CAUGHT ON GROUND. IT CONFORMS TO STRATEGY

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OF DETERRENCE, WHEREAS MX SOONER OR LATER WOULD FORCE SOVIET UNION INTO ITS OWN MOBILE MISSILE PROGRAM."

3. WASHINGTON STAR, QUOTING INTELLIGENCE SOURCES, SAID LATEST EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT MIRV'D SS-N-18 MISSILES, WITH RANGE OF MORE THAT 4,900 MILES, ARE BEING DEPLOYED ON DELTA-3 SUBMARINES AS VESSELS ENTER SOVIET FLEET. EACH MISSILE CARRIES THREE WARHEADS, AND REPORTEDLY IS FIRST TIME SOVIETS HAVE PLACED MORE THAN SINGLE WARHEAD ON SEA-BASED MISSILE. "DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTS NARROWING OF NUMERICAL GAP BETWEEN U.S. AND SOVIET SEA-BASED STRATEGIC WEAPONS," STAR REPORTED.

4. WASHINGTON STAR SAID PRIVATE BIPARTISAN STUDY GROUP,
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ATLANTIC COUNCIL, WARNED THAT TIME IS GROWING SHORT FOR BRINGING "GRAY AREA" WEAPONS UNDER CONTROL. COUNCIL URGED PROMPT STUDIES ON QUESTION OF LIMITING INTERMEDIATE RANGE MISSILES, NUCLEAR-ARMED FIGHTER-BOMBERS AND OTHER WEAPONS 'WHICH HAVE HITHERTO BEEN NEGLECTED IN ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS." REPORT WAS PREPARED BY TEAM HEADED BY U. ALEXIS JOHNSON, FORMER CHIEF U.S. SALT NEGOTIATOR.

5. RICHARD BURT OF NEW YORK TIMES SAID CARTER ADMINISTR-ATION IS CONSIDERING SELLING IRAN 31 CONVERTED F-4 FIGHTER PLANES WITH ADVANCED ELECTRONIC GEAR AND STRIKE MISSILES, DESIGNED TO CONFUSE ENEMY RADAR AND ATTACK AIR DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS. PLANES, CALLED WILD WEASELS, COST ABOUT 10 MILLION DOLLARS EACH. SHAH WAS TOLD HE COULD HAVE 31 STANDARD F-4 MODELS, BUT HE INSISTED UPON OBTAINING WILD WEASELS, BURT REPORTED. "ADMINISTRATION IS EXAMINING THIS REQUEST. SEVERAL OFFICIALS SAID IT WOULD PROBABLY BE GRANTED." VANCE

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